

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 1-16 are pending in this application.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being “obvious” over the combination of Liddy (U.S. ‘940) in view of Bowman (WO ‘487). Applicant traverses this rejection.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. The combination of Liddy and Bowman fails to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. For example, the combination fails to teach or suggest “weighting means arranged to calculate, in respect of every set of information referenced in said store, the proportion of users who, upon using the recorded query term with said at least one information retrieval tool, indicated that said associated referenced set of information was relevant as a weighting (emphasis added),” as required by independent claim 1 and its dependents. Similar (but not necessarily identical) comments apply to the remaining independent claims.

Page 7, first paragraph of the Board Decision mailed October 28, 2009 stated the following:

“Furthermore, though Appellants contend that the cited references ‘do not teach or suggest calculating the proportion of users who indicated that the retrieved information was relevant’ (Br. 18), such argument is not commensurate in scope with the language of claim 1. That is, claim 1 does not recite any such ‘calculating the proportion of users’ as Appellants contend (emphasis original).”

The amended language of claim 1 resolves the above-noted deficiency. That is, claim 1 now explicitly requires calculating the proportion of users. Namely, independent claim 1 explicitly requires "calculate, in respect of every set of information referenced in said store, the proportion of users...(emphasis added)." As another example, independent claim 7 explicitly requires "calculating, for every selected set of information, the proportion of users...(emphasis added)." Applicant therefore submits that the claim amendments have overcome the alleged deficiency noted by the Board of Appeals.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Liddy and Bowman be withdrawn.

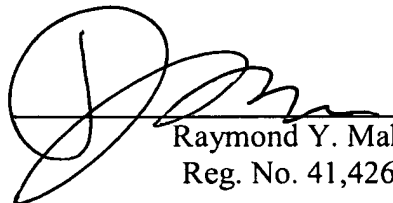
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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